

AN  
Epistle of Love  
AND  
Tender Advice,  
TO  
Friends and Brethren  
IN  
AMERICA;  
Or elsewhere;

To live in the Truth, that they may shew  
forth the Virtue and Effects of it in a  
Holy Life.

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*By your Friend and Brother in the Truth, who Travels  
for Sion's Prosperity,*

*William Bingley.*

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1 Pet. 5. 3. *Being Ensamples to the Flock.*

Ephes. 5. 1, 2. *And Be ye therefore Followers of God, as dear  
Children, and walk in Love, as Christ also hath loved us.*

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Printed by Andrew Sowle : And sold at the Three-Keys in  
Nags-Head-Courts in Grace-Church-Street, 1689.

Boards of Love

AND  
Tender Advice  
TO

Slaves and Servants

IN  
AMERICA

Or elsewhere

To live in the Truth, that they may show  
forth the Virtue and Liberty of it in a  
Holy Land.

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By your Friend and Brother in the Truth, who Trusts  
for Slaves' Progress  
William Linnell.

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1 Pet. 2. 2. Being Examples to the Flock.  
And to be in the Fellowship of Good, as that  
Children, and such in Love, as I wish to be with you.

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Printed by Andrew South : And Sold at the New-Ky. in  
the West-County in Great-Britain, 1789.

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## An Epistle of Love and Tender Advice, &c.

*Dear Friends and Brethren;*

**Y**OU are often in my mind, and a Concern many times hath been upon my Spirit for you, and Breathings are in my Heart to the Lord for your Growth and Prosperity in the Truth, which God Almighty hath been pleased to Convince you of, and to gather you into, that you might confess thereunto both in Word and Deed, amongst all People where you may come, shewing forth the Virtue and Effects of it in all things, and upon all occasions.

Now *Dear Friends*, seeing your Lot is cast in those parts, and you are fallen amongst a People who know not God, but are in the Darkness and Ignorance of their Minds scattered from God, see that you answer your places towards them, by a true and sincere walking in the Blessed Truth and Way of Holiness (in all respects) which God hath been pleased to make known, and gather you into, and hath made you partakers of the Power of it, and quickned you up into the Life and Virtue thereof (who once were dead in Trespasses and Sins) for this end, that you who are thus quickned, and gathered into his marvelous Light, and Covenant of Life and Peace, might not only partake of the Salvation and sweetness of it in your selves, but might bear Testimony to the Goodness and Universallness of God's Love therein to all Nations, wherever your Lot may be cast. And seeing God in his infinite Love hath thus called and concerned many of you, with many more, in so great a Work as to bear witness to his Name and Truth, and Way of Life and Salvation (which through the Name of Jesus is held forth, and tendered to all People) in your Day and Generation, and to be Instruments in his Hand in that Work and Service, which the Faithful Servants

of God went forth for, and were called to labour in of Old,  
*Viz.*

To publish his Word of Reconciliation, and Gospel of Peace, and Glad-Tydings to all the Mourners in Spirit, and bowed down Ones, who are seeking after the Knowledge of God, and to turn People from Darkness to the Light, and from Satans Power (by which all Nations have been captivated) to the Power of the Living God (which sets free from the Bondage of Corruption) that they might receive Remission of Sins, and an Inheritance amongst them who are sanctified through Faith in Jesus Christ.

O let the weighty Sence of this great Work, which God hath called you into, remain weighty upon all your Minds, and that all may faithfully discharge themselves therein to God and all Men, in the sight of God, by a diligent answering and subjection to the Lord, in all his requiring, and being sincerely and singly reigned into the Will and Orderings of the Lord at all Times, and keeping under the Guidings and Conduct of His Spirit and Power, in all the Affairs and Services we are called to, so will you answer the good in all People, where you may be ordered, and be a sweet savour in your Day; a savour of Life unto Life in them that are saved; though a savour of Death unto Death in them that perish; for we are called to be as the Salt of the Earth, and blessed are they that keep in the savouriness of his Life, and thereby answer the end for which we were called: but if the Salt lose its savour, its hence-forth good for nothing, but to be troden under foot of men; for when men go from the Truth, and do those things that are contrary to what they do profess, and make a shew of one thing in Words, but are another thing in Deeds, men trample them under foot, and so they become a division to those that are about them.

And *Dear Friends*, I do exhort you in the Love of God, as one that travels in Soul and Spirit, for your well-fare in the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not let the love of this World hinder you from that Service God hath called you to for his Name and Truth, nor the Cares thereof draw you back from an Exercise in your Minds towards God, and so hinder you from waiting upon him, in whom all our fresh Springs are, and thereby stop  
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the opening of the Fountain of Virtue and Life in your Souls; which is the very Quintessence and Marrow of all living Words and Testimonies; for where this is wanting, let the Words be never so excellent, we are but as sounding Brass, and as a tinkling Symbal: For its by the Virtue and Spring of this Life of Christ in our Hearts, that we are made meet for this great Work, and enabled to perform it acceptably to God, and the good of them amongst whom we are called to labour:

And *Dear Friends*, as your Mouthes are opened to publish the acceptable Day of the Lord, and the Truth of the living God, to others (which leads to a Just and Holy Life, that is, to do to all Men as we would have them to do to us, and to love Mercy, and to walk Humbly with God, in all Meekness and self-Denial) See that your Lives and Conversations, and Behaviours toward all Men, answer your Words: Being seasoned with the sweetness and savour of that Word of Life, which you are Publishers of to others; for where Mens Lives and Actions contradicts their Words, and are of another nature and tendaney, then their Words and Testimonies are, such cannot gather to God, but rather scatter from him, and lay stumbling-Blocks in the Way of the Enquirers; for nothing can truly gather to God, but that which hath the virtue and savour of his Life in it: And therefore it is the concern of all who are called into this Work, to wait upon God, that they may be preserved holy, and unspotted to him in so high and heavenly a Calling, as to be Witnesses for God upon Earth; for none can bring a clean savoury Ministry of Life for God, out of an unsavoury unsanctified Spirit and Vessel, (for all the Vessels in the House and Service of God must be Holy) for the Testimony born of Old is certainly true; *None can bring a Clean thing out of an Unclean thing: Men do not gather Grapes of Thorns, nor Figs of Thistles: A corrupt Tree cannot bring forth good Fruit*, for what the Heart of Man is, so will that be that proceeds out of it. So it is our keeping in that which keeps our Hearts Upright and Clean to God, out of all the Pollutions and Spots of this World; and in subjection to the Word of Life in our selves, which makes us Instrumental in his Hand for the good and assistance of others. And where this Holy Spirit and Power of God hath the government and rule of the mind, it keeps



keeps in true Humility and Lowliness of Mind and Spirit in the sight of God and all Men; out of all Ambition and Loathsomeness, and high Conceited Thoughts of our selves, in true Poverty of Spirit, and in a sight of our being Nothing, and unable to do any thing, to his Glory and our Peace, and the Good of others as of our selves; for we certainly know by Experience the Testimony of Christ to his Disciples to be true; who said, *Without me ye can do nothing*; for it is his Spirit and Power which is the moving cause of all Good done, and brought forth by Man: Therefore it is good for all to wait daily upon the Lord, to receive from his bountiful Hand a fresh supply, who is as an open Fountain to all those whose Eyes are truly to him, and do depend upon him for Wisdom and Strength, and the Openings of his Life in our several Services we are called too, knowing we are but as Wells without Water, and Clouds without Rain, without the spring of it in us, that it may flow through us to others; and where the fence of this is kept in, it preserves in a sincere frame of Mind and Spirit, and in a concern for the Good of all Men, and tender of the Honour of God, and in true Love and Tenderneſs one towards another, and in a spirit of Condescension and Brotherly Love in all things becoming the Truth, and our holy Profession, that God over all may be Glorified in and through you all for Evermore.

And keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace unviolated, whatever occasion or Provocation may be ministered by the Enemy thereof; and watch against his Designs, who watcheth all Opportunities, and takes all Occasions to break your Peace, both in the particular and in the general, and to beget you into variance and distance one towards another; and to sow the Seed of Dissention and Discord amongst Brethren; but let the Gifts of Christ Jesus our Lord be shewn forth through you; for as the Apostle said, *He that Ascended, &c. Gave Gifts unto Men for the Work of the Ministry, for the Edifying of the Church, till we all meet together in the Unity of the Faith and Knowledge of the Son of God*: So that it is very evident, the tendency of these Gifts of Christ, and workings thereof in Man, and Testimonies which proceeds therefrom unto Men, and all Labours and Services therein, it is for the gathering people

people to God, and the uniting of them in the Faith of the Son of God, that the Designs of the old Enemy and Adversary of Man-kind, whose work hath always been to scatter and to divide, may be disappointed, and people preserved out of his Snares, and gathered into the Light of Christ, which discovereth him in all his Wiles; and they that keep to the Gift of God in themselves, they cannot give way to any thing that would hurt this Unity and Fellowship with God, and one with another, and cause true Love to him and one towards another to wax cold, nor to a dis-esteeming and sleighting of one another to get up in the mind; this is the work of the Devil your Adversary; and when this Love and Tenderness is lost, then he begets evil-Surmisings, Jealousies and Whisperings, and Back-bitings, and Heart-burnings one against another, which tends to make Breaches and Divisions, and to Scatter from God and one from another: This ought to be watched against as a work of Darkness, and faithfully reprov'd, and Judgment given against such Practices where ever they appear, without Partiality or Respect of Persons; and if these and all other things that are Evil and Offensive to God and Men, be watched against and kept down in the Authority and Dominion of the Truth, and your minds exercised in Gods holy Fear, and guided and governed by the Spirit of the living God; and all Selfishness kept out, then will your Lights shine before Men, and you will be as Lights set upon a Hill, and Candles in Candle-sticks, giving Light to them that are about you, and your good Conversation in Christ, as well as your Words, will reach to them that are Ignorant of God, and thereby they may see your good Works, and Glorifie your heavenly Father; and thereby many may be brought out of the Darkness wherein they are scattered from God, to believe and to walk in the Light of the Lord God and the Lamb, for the Nations of them that are saved must walk therein: And as you thus keep your Testimony clear in all things, and your Consciences void of Offence towards God and all Men, whether those amongst whom you Labour will receive the Testimony of Truth or not, and submit thereunto, as to know the Effect and Power of the Truth testified of by you, so as to be saved by it; if they, I say, Reject your Labours and Travels for their Good, yet as the Prophet

said

said of Old, *You* will not lose your Reward, your Portion will be with the Lord, and an answer of Peace and Well-done will be returned from him into your Bosoms; and you will be as a lovely Heritage to God, and he will not withhold the Showers and Dew of Heaven from falling upon you, but will be as an open Fountain and as a divine Treasury to you, out of which all your Wants and Necessities will be supplied, and you filled with the divine Treasures of Wisdom and Life, and your Strength renewed day by day, and all weariness and faintness, and luke-warmness and forgetfulness of God will vanish away, and your Zeal and sincerity for the Truth will be manifest in all things, and you will grow up an Holy Temple to God, and a Habitation for him through the Spirit. And he according to his Promise of Old, *Will* dwell in you and walk in you, and will be your God, as you truly and sincerely are his People, and his Sons and Daughters, and are given up to do his Will, and not your own; then will the Work of God prosper in your Hand, and you shall be as Saviours on Mount *Sion*, and as Battle-Axes in his hand against all Ungodliness and Unrighteousness of Men, and a terror to Evil-doers, but helpers on, and encouragers of them that are weak and seeking after the Lord, and a Praise to them that do well; and so carryers on of the Work of the Lord which he hath called you to, to the Praise and Glory of God, and the Good of all, and your Everlasting Peace and Comfort.

And



*Friends,*

**Y**OU who have not a Testimony to bear in Words, nor are called to be Ministers and Publishers of the Gospel of God, yet you are concerned in a Testimony for God in your Lives and Conversations, for we are all called to be Preachers, or setters-forth of Righteousness, Justice and Truth in our Day and Generation; and as you keep your hearts and minds subject to the blessed Truth of God manifested in you, you will feel the Power and Virtue of it to season and sanctifie your Hearts, and to lead and guide you so in all your undertakings, as that you will be kept in a holy Awe and Fear towards God, and Circumspect in all your Thoughts, Words and Deeds, and in a concern for the Honour of his Name, and the Advancement of his Holy Truth in your day.

*Dear Friends,* watch over your selves, and one another, with a Godly care, not with an evil Eye, but in Love, in your Tradings, your Buyings and Sellings, that you may neither Speak nor Act any thing but what is Just and Righteous, and answers the Good in all with whom you have to do, and thereby you will adorn your Holy Profession, by an unblameable Life and Conversation, Justice and Equity being kept to in all things.

And have a care of giving way to Covetousness, or letting in a desire or inclination into your minds, to take indirect Ways and Courses to get Gain, as doing of Wrong, or Defrauding or Over-reaching one another, or using any deceitful or under-hand Dealings to accomplish any Selfish ends, and so disregard, or at least over-look the equal just Principle and Ballance of the Sanctuary (which brings all Men to Justice and Truth) for if you do, then will Judgment and Wrath pursue you, and Withering will come upon you both inwardly and outwardly, and instead of bringing Honour to God, you will bring a Reproach upon his holy Name and Truth you do profess, and thereby cut your selves off from the Communion and Fellowship of the Saints in Light; therefore I intreat you

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watch

watch against these things, that the Enemy of all Righteousness may not prevail to draw you into his Snares, to your Ruin, and the Grief of those who Travel in Spirit for your Prosperity; neither let the vain delights and pleasures of this World carry you away into forgetfulness of God, and of his tender Mercies towards you, and of your Duty to him, and one towards another, for its the Willing and Obedient that Serves God sincerely and diligently, with a free heart, that shall Eat the Good of the Land, or the Fatness of Gods House, and sit down in the injoyment of his Presence to Praise him for evermore.

And, O Remember the great Kindness and good-Will of God in stretching forth his Arm of Power to visit you when you were scattered in the Darkness and Ignorance of your Minds, to gather you to himself; and how he brought you out of the ways of Sin and deeds of Darkness, by his Spirit of Judgment, that followed you with Reproof and secret Smittings in your Hearts for all your evil ways; and by his Spirit of Judgment and Burning purged away the Corruption and Filth of your Sins, which separated you from the Lord, and thereby brought many unto the Knowledge of himself, and to the Way of Life and Salvation, and into a nearness with him, and one with another in his Spirit, and hath manifested his power to make way through all Oppositions, and for the preserving of you through all Trials and Temptations; and they whose Eyes have been to him, and whose Care have been cast upon him, and Dependance upon him alone for Help and Perservation; Such can say he hath been our Helper in all straits and difficulties, and his Name hath been our hiding-Place, and Refuge in all Storms unto this Day, Blessed be his Name for Evermore.

O let not the Sence of this go off your minds, but be careful to walk worthy of all his tender Dealings and loving Kindnesses to you-ward; and answer the great End of God in giving us Life and Being, and also the great Love of Christ our Lord. In laying down his Life a Ransom for us, and purchasing of us with his own Blood, for this very purpose, that we should Glorifie God with our Bodies, Souls and Spirits  
which

which are his; and have a care least through any neglect of your Duty, and Watchfulness to the Lord, and a true Hungering and Thirsting after Righteousness, and of an inward Exercise of your minds towards God, you fall into the same Evil which they did of Old, who forgot God days without number, and after they knew God, did not Glorifie him as God, neither were they thankful, but became vain in their Imaginations, and their foolish Hearts were Darkened; the same Enemy lies in wait, and endeavours to betray you from the simplicity of the Truth, and a sincere walking therein, and to prevent you from following the Lord faithfully, and Worshiping and Glorifying him as God; and so to make you Slaves and Vassals again to that Power which Christ Jesus our Lord is come to Redeem and Ransom you from, that you might be his Flock and Heritage, to live to him, and to Glorifie him in all things.

And though a *Profession* and *Form* of Godliness may be retained, yet if the Life and Substance thereof be lost or Man dead to it in himself, a Form will not avail any thing, neither will it recommend any Man to God, nor give access to the Throne of Grace, for no Man can Glorifie God in that State, God is not Glorified with any thing that Man can form or bring forth, or do of himself in his own Will, Time or Strength, but God is Glorified with his own begettings in the Heart and Mind, and what is brought forth by his own Life and Power through Man and Woman, and nothing else; so it is all our Duty to wait upon God with the mind stayed upon him, in a Resignation to his Divine Power and Spirit in our selves, and in a true sight and sence that we can do nothing without him, to his praise and our joy, and that he is our Life and our Streugth, and Fountain of all our Comforts and Blessings every way, then the Soul bows before him, and admires his Goodness and divine Providence, which keeps and preserves out of the Snares of Death; in this frame of mind, Humility of Soul and Spirit God is Worshipped and Glorified, for it is not the out-side, but the Heart that God looks at and Requires.

So Dear Friends, see that your Hearts be right in the sight

of God, and that you love nothing more then the Lord Jesus Christ; for if you do, you will not be found worthy of him, nor of that Crown of Everlasting Glory, which is laid up in store for all them that love his Appearance.

*Friends*, many Eyes are upon you, therefore be careful, I beseech you, and let your Conversation Preach forth Truth to all, and let Justice and Truth be done in all things, to all men, that you may have a witness in the inward parts of all, with whom you have to do, that you are the People of the Lord, and that God is in you of a Truth, and that you do to all men, as you would have them to do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets: And see that you are in that which can rather suffer Wrong, than do Wrong to any man; for the one hath the Reward of Peace, but the other the Reward of Tribulation and Anguish, which will certainly be rendred upon every Soul of man, both Jew and Gentile, that doth Evil: And let your Love to God and one to another appear by a Spirit of Meekness and Condescension one to another, and by bearing and forbearing one with another, not provoking one another to any thing but Love and Good Works; *For hereby shall all men know that you are my Disciples*, saith Christ, *if you love one another*; This Love is to be unfeigned, and without Dissimulation, not only in Word, and in Tongue, but in Deed and in Truth:

And *Dear Friends*, dwell in that Wisdom that's from above, which is pure and peaceable, gentle and easie to be intreated, and they that are Children of her are not puffed up in a vain Mind, nor Disdainers of others who may be in a meaner Station, as to the outward, than themselves; for that which leads to disdain and contempt one another, is not the Wisdom of God, but the contrary.

And *Dear Friends*, I beg of you in the Love of God, *sinne* all occasions of Strife and Contentions amongst your selves, for that is a Work of Satan, and a Fruit of the Flesh, and a Mark of men being Carnal, and not Spiritual; for as the Apostle saith to the *Corinthians* by way of Reproof, *Are you not Carnal, and walk as Men?* And the Reason he gives for it, is this, *For where as here is among you Envyings, Strife and Division, are you not Carnal?*



For where Envy and Strife is, there is Bitterness, and every Evil Work, and by these things many Simple-hearted have been hurt, and the Enquirers after the Way of the Lord been discouraged, and the Name of the Lord dishonoured by such Breaches, as these things have occasioned; and therefore as you tender the Honour of God, and Prosperity of Truth amongst you, watch against these things, that there may not be so much as an appearance of them amongst you as becomes *Christians*.

And beware of that Spirit that is presumptuous, and seeks its own Honour, and not the Honour of God, and the Applause and Esteem of Men more then of God; and when it is not answered in its Evil Ends; then begets into Prejudice and Bitterness, not regarding the good of others, but its own Self-will and Ends, making nothing of breaking all Society, both Human and Divine; and where men give way to this Spirit of Darkness, they will unavoidably come under that character the Apostle *Paul* gives of some of Old, 2 *Tim.* 3. 3, 4. viz. *Without Natural Affection, Truce-breakers, false Accusers, Incontinent, Fierce, Despisers of those that are good, Traytors, Heady, High-minded, lovers of Pleasures more than lovers of God*: Therefore watch against these things, as aforesaid, that you may not be found in them, nor be an ill favour to them that are about you, and cause the worthy Name of Christ Jesus to be blasphemed by the Heathen, and those that know not God.

O *Friends*! I am bowed in Spirit, and a Travel is upon me for you, that none of these things which grieves Gods good Spirit, and wounds the Spirits of them that travel for you may appear amongst you; but on the contrary, that you may be a good favour to God, and one to another: And be tender of the Reputation of Truth, and of one anothers Reputation, both as Men and *Christians* therein, that you may all put your Shoulders to the Work of God, and may serve God with one consent, and one another in Brotherly Love, then will God multiply his Mercies and Blessings upon you, and will make you as a Well-watered Garden, and as a lovely Heritage to himself, and he will not withhold the pleasant Showers, nor the warming Beams of the Sun of Righteousness



teousness from you, whereby all will grow as Calves in the Stall, and as Willows by the Water-Courses, and Trees that's planted by the Rivers of Water, and you will be enabled to bring forth Fruit in due season, to the praise of him that hath watered you, and to the mutual Refreshment and Joy one of another; and what-ever Exercise or Affliction you may meet with, God will be near at Hand, to bear up your Minds and Spirits from fainting, and will be Strength to the Weak, and Wisdom to the Simple-hearted, and a support to the drooping Spirits, and his Name will be a strong Tower, as the Righteous experienced it of Old, for you to flee unto, wherein you may be safe in the Day of Storms; and hereby you will be enabled to hold out in Faithfulness to the end, and to finish that Work and Testimony which God hath called you unto in your Day, that in the end of all you may go off the Stage of this troublesome World in Peace with God, and may leave a sweet savour behind you, and may inherit the Crown of Righteousness, which God hath prepared for all them that love the Appearance of Jesus Christ, and continue faithful to the end; And that you may not fall short of this Portion and Inheritance of Eternal Life, and Sweetness forever, is the Desire and Breathings of my Soul to the Lord for you;

*Who am your Loving Friend, and Brother in the Truth,*

London, the 7th

William Bingley

Month, 1689.

Rev. 3. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. I counsel thee to buy of me Gold tried by the Fire, that thou mayst be made rich; and white Rayment, that thou mayst be clothed, and that thy filthy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine Eyes with Eye-salve, that thou mayst see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and amend. Behold, I stand at the Door, and knock: If any Man hear my Voice, and open the Door, I will come in unto him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh, will I grant to sit with me in my Throne, even as I overcame, and sit with my Father in his Throne. Let him that hath an Ear hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.

THE END.

